

*a<sup>1</sup>*  
wherein the request is for one of a bid to buy the instrument and an offer to sell the instrument, and

wherein the first indication is not an acceptance, and the second indication is not a rejection.

---

*a<sup>2</sup>*  
16. (Amended) A system for trading an instrument, comprising:  
a communication network;  
a first computer for transmitting a request for a price of the instrument from a customer via the communication network, the request including request data; and  
at least one second computer for receiving the request via the communication network, the at least one second computer transmitting at least one response to the request from at least one user to the first computer via the communication network,  
wherein the first computer determines a best price response to the request as a function of the at least one response, the first computer transmitting a first indication to the user who provided the best price response, the first computer transmitting a second indication to the users who did not provide the best price response, the first and second indications being different from one another, and the request is for one of a bid to buy the instrument and an offer to sell the instrument, and

wherein the first indication is not an acceptance, and the second indication is not a rejection.

17. (Amended) A system for trading an instrument, comprising:  
a first computer;  
a second computer for transmitting a request for a price of the instrument from a customer to the first computer, the request including request data; and  
at least one third computer for receiving the request via the first computer, the at least one third computer transmitting to the first computer at least one response to the request from at least one user,  
wherein the first computer determines a best price response to the request as a function of the at least one response, the first computer transmitting a first indication to the user who provided the best price response, the first computer transmitting a second indication to the users who did not provide the best price response, the first and second indications being different from one another, and the request is for one of a bid to buy the instrument and an

offer to sell the instrument, and

wherein the first indication is not an acceptance, and the second indication is not a rejection.

18. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a set of instructions, the set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor to provide for trading of an instrument, the set of instructions performing the steps of:

providing a request for a price of the instrument from a customer to a plurality of users via a communication network, the request including request data concerning the instrument;

receiving at least one response to the request from the plurality of users, the at least one response including price data;

*a2*  
providing the at least one response to the customer via the communication network;

determining a best price response to the request as a function of the at least one response;

providing a first indication to the user who provided the best price response; and

providing a second indication to the users who did not provide the best price response, the first and second indications being different from one another;

wherein the request is for one of a bid to buy the instrument and an offer to sell the instrument, and

wherein the first indication is not an acceptance, and the second indication is not a rejection.

---

Please add without prejudice the following new claims:

19. The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 18, wherein the set of instructions enable the customer to provide an amended request or a counter-request to the users at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

*A3*  
20. The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 19, wherein the set of instructions enable each of the users, taking into account whether the first indication or the second indication is provided, to adjust or cancel a corresponding response at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

21. The computer readable storage medium according to claim 18, wherein the set of instructions enable each of the users, taking into account whether the first indication or the second indication is provided, to adjust or cancel a corresponding response at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

22. The method according to claim 1, further comprising: providing an amended request or a counter-request from the customer to the users at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

23. The method according to claim 22, further comprising: each of the users taking into account whether the first indication or the second indication is provided, and adjusting or canceling a corresponding response at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

24. The method according to claim 1, further comprising: each of the users, taking into account whether the first indication or the second indication is provided, and adjusting or canceling a corresponding response at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

25. The system according to claim 16, wherein the customer is able to provide an amended request or a counter-request to the users at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

26. The system according to claim 25, wherein each of the users, taking into account whether the first indication or the second indication is provided, is able to adjust or cancel a corresponding response at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

27. The system according to claim 16, wherein each of the users, taking into account whether the first indication or the second indication is provided, is able to adjust or cancel a corresponding response at any time before the customer accepts the best price response.

28. The system according to claim 17, wherein the customer is able to provide an